IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 5, 6, 10 to 16, 22, 24, 28 and 29 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend Claims 1, 4 and 7 to 9 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a reading unit constructed to read ~~means for reading~~ an image in an original;

a character recognizing unit constructed to recognize ~~means for recognizing~~ a character in the image read by said reading unit ~~means~~;

a storing unit constructed to store ~~means for storing~~ a character font;

a readout unit constructed to read ~~means for reading~~ the character font from said storing unit ~~means~~ in response to a result of recognition obtained by said character recognizing unit ~~means~~;

a first detecting unit constructed to detect first character size ~~means for detecting information~~ concerning the character in the image read by said reading unit ~~means~~;

a setting unit constructed to set a magnification information based on an instruction by an operator;

a second determining unit constructed to determine second character size based on the first character size and the magnification information; and

a generating unit constructed to generate ~~means for generating~~ a reproduced image, which includes characters having the second character size, based on the character font read by said readout unit ~~means and the information concerning the character detected by said detecting means~~,

wherein said generating ~~means~~ unit reproduces ~~a character with a character gap according to a set condition by an instruction from an operator, and~~

~~said generating means reproduces~~ characters by combining a plurality of kinds of character gaps in accordance with the magnification information and the second character size ~~set condition~~.

2. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a character font used for a reproduced image is determined to have a character style which is closest to the character in the original.

3. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a character used for a reproduced image has at least two different sizes with respect to the same character size on the original.

4. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the second [[a]] character size ~~used for a reproduced image~~ is determined as a maximum size by which all characters in the original can be reproduced as reproduced images.

5. and 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1 [[6]], wherein said generating unit ~~means~~ reproduces characters by combining a plurality of kinds of character gaps when a number of pixels of a character gap calculated in accordance with the ~~set copy~~ magnification information is not an integer.

8. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

reading an image in an original;

detecting first character size information concerning a character in the [[an]] image ~~in an original~~;

recognizing a character in the image;

reading a character font from a storing unit ~~means~~ in response to a result of character recognition;

setting a magnification information based on an instruction by an operator;

determining second character size based on the first character size and the magnification information; and

generating a reproduced image, which includes characters having the second character size, based on the read character font ~~and the information concerning the character~~,

wherein said generating step reproduces ~~a character with a character gap according to a set condition by an instruction from an operator, and~~

~~said generating step reproduces~~ characters by combining a plurality of kinds of character gaps in accordance with the magnification information and the second character size ~~set condition~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer characterized by storing a program therein, said program using the computer to execute the processing comprising the steps of:

reading an image in an original;

detecting first character size information concerning a character in the [[an]] image ~~in an original~~;

recognizing a character in the image;

reading a character font from a storing means in response to a result of character recognition;

setting magnification information based on an instruction by an operator; and

generating a reproduced image, which includes characters having the second character size, based on the read character font ~~and the information concerning the character~~,

wherein said generating step reproduces ~~a character with a character gap according to a set condition by an instruction from an operator, and~~

~~said generating step reproduces~~ characters by combining a plurality of kinds of character gaps in accordance with the magnification information and the second character size ~~set condition~~.

10. to 25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein said method enables to output the reproduced image in an image processing apparatus which can form on a sheet an image based on data input from at least any of a plurality of data generation sources including an original reading unit and an external apparatus.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein said method enables to output the reproduced image in an image processing apparatus which can transmit data to an external apparatus through at least any of a plurality of data transmission media including a personal computer interface and a network.

28. and 29. (Canceled)